



# HOUSE BILL 777: Exempt Isolation Float Tanks from Pool Laws

2015-2016 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	April 28, 2015
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Rep. Malone	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Wendy Graf Ray
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Committee Counsel

**SUMMARY:** *House Bill 777 would exempt isolation float tanks from public swimming pool laws and clarify that licensed physical therapists are authorized to prescribe the use of isolation float tanks in the course of physical therapy.*

## BILL ANALYSIS:

Under current law, the statutes that regulate public swimming pools do not apply to:

- Private pools serving a single family dwelling and used only by the residents of the dwelling and their guests.
- Therapeutic pools used in physical therapy programs operated by medical facilities licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services or operated by a licensed physical therapist.
- Therapeutic chambers drained, cleaned, and refilled after each individual use.

Section 1 of House Bill 777 would provide that the exemption for therapeutic pools includes isolation float tanks.

Under current law, "physical therapy" is defined as the evaluation or treatment of any person by the use of physical, chemical, or other properties of heat, light, water, electricity, sound, massage, or therapeutic exercise, or other rehabilitative procedures, with or without assistive devices, for the purposes of preventing, correcting, or alleviating a physical or mental disability. Physical therapy includes the performance of specialized tests of neuromuscular function, administration of specialized therapeutic procedures, interpretation and implementation of referrals from licensed medical doctors or dentists, and establishment and modification of physical therapy programs for patients.

Section 2 of House Bill 777 would provide that physical therapy programs include programs prescribed solely at the discretion of a physical therapist that involve the use of isolation float tanks.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act would become effective when it becomes law.

*Jeff Hudson, counsel to House Regulatory Reform, substantially contributed to this summary.*

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